



# Washington State Department of Agriculture

PO Box 42560  
Olympia, Washington 98504-2560  
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Contact: [Becky Elias](#) (206) 256-6151

## WSDA Centennial Day at state Capitol slated for April 11

**OLYMPIA** – This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the [Washington State Department of Agriculture](#) (WSDA) and to celebrate, the agency will hold a WSDA Centennial Day at the state Capitol on April 11 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The agency was created on June 10, 1913 when the state Legislature pulled together nine areas of responsibility related to agriculture covering animal health, food and dairies, feed and fertilizer, oil, bakeries, horticulture and fairs. Today, WSDA has 26 programs supporting a state industry that involves more than 39,500 farms and pumps an estimated \$46 billion into the state economy.

The WSDA Centennial Day at the Capitol will be a day of education and connections, with attendance from members of agricultural commissions and organizations, legislators, WSDA program staff, and WSDA past directors. The group will also welcome Donald “Bud” Hover, newly appointed Director of Agriculture, who begins his role as agency leader on April 1.

The event will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Capitol Rotunda throughout the day and coincides with the [Washington Cattlemen’s Association](#) barbecue taking place during lunch on the lawn.

Throughout the centennial year, WSDA will use the occasion to celebrate and promote Washington agriculture. Other events include:

- “Future of Agriculture in Washington” [poster contest](#) for 4<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students around the state. Deadline to enter is April 15.
- Hunger awareness and food drive with Northwest Farmers Fighting Hunger for all of June.
- Taste Washington Day on Sept. 25, a day when school districts feature Washington grown foods in their lunch menus. This year, WSDA hopes to expand the effort to include restaurants and family dinners.
- Agricultural displays at fairs and farmers markets throughout the state.

WSDA encourages you to get involved in the centennial and celebrating Washington agriculture. If you have historic photos and stories to share, would like to host a centennial activity, or have a WSDA speaker attend an event, please contact [centennial@agr.wa.gov](mailto:centennial@agr.wa.gov).

Visit [www.agr.wa.gov](http://www.agr.wa.gov) for details on these events and other centennial news.

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